

Carlisle Conservation Commission
February 23, 2012

Pursuant to the notice filed with the Town Clerk, Chair Peter Burn called the meeting to order in the Clark Room at the Town Hall at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Commissioners Tom Brown, Luke Ascolillo, Jenifer Bush, and Conservation Administrator Sylvia Willard

Bills were circulated for signatures. Minutes will be reviewed when Tom Brownrigg returns from Belize.

Emergency Certificate: 224 South St. Marty Galligan

Silver maple tree roots were found to be invading the septic system, which is close to the wetland. Burn reported that he and Willard conferred on the issue prior to the meeting. Two special conditions were imposed: 1) Notify Cons Com office when the tree is to be taken down. 2) The stump of the tree that is on the slope abutting the wetland needs to stay in place. Brown made the motion to issue the Emergency Certificate with the two conditions. Ascolillo seconded. All voted in favor.

DEP 125-0903: Change to Plan for 41 Skelton Road, Prema Bose

The engineer requested minor changes to the plan. These changes include a gravel infiltration trench to handle rain runoff from the roof, geothermal wells (outside Cons Com jurisdiction), haybales around an existing well, and replacement of the existing septic system. Willard suggested that the changes, which are jurisdictional, are minor enough that they do not require their order of conditions to be amended. Ascolillo moved to accept the changes depicted in the plan dated 1-30-2012. Brown seconded. All voted in favor.

MACC Conference: MACC conference will be happening next week. Willard asked commissioners to let her know who could attend and what workshops they would like to sign up for.

Foss Farm Community Gardens Rule Revision. Jack O'Connor reported from the audience that after receiving input from gardeners at the last ConsCom meeting, the new rules would now allow 1 principal gardener plus up to 3 co-gardeners to share up to 2 plots together, and also be able to apply to the lottery together. One condition is that the co-gardeners cannot be named on any other plot applications. Burn pointed out that the goal was to fairly apportion garden access to the maximum number of people. Brown moved to accept the revised rules. Ascolillo seconded. All voted in favor.

Cranberry bog dike update. Mark Duffy reported that the USDA was at the bog recently and did inspect the dike. There is no change in the status of the dike repair needed as a result of the October storm damage at this time.

Farmers on Town Conservation Land

Kaylie Boyle from Gaining Ground tapped 10 maple trees on Towle Field. In 2011 they tapped 10 trees at Towle Field from Feb. 14-March 15 and collected enough sap to produce approximately 4 gallons of syrup. Gaining Ground donates its syrup and produce to local needy families and is supported by donations and grants. Willard suggested that in the future, Gaining Ground could be on the 3 year farming agreement cycle, along with the other farmers agreements.

Dick Shohet, Mill Iron Farm, reported that Kevin Brown is now a partner in his operation. They are seeking more hay in town. The South part of the East Field at Fox Hill will go back to being a hayfield. Towle and Spencer Brook Fields are full of poison ivy which precludes them from being good hay fields. Close cropping (using a finish mower) improves tolerance to winter kill.

Shohet suggests that close cropping might be a means of improving these fields.

John Bakewell passed around samples of winter wheat that he harvested from Fox Hill. He grew cucurbits on the vegetable area this past year. The deer and the voles have been affecting the trees on the property. This year they plan to raise chickens as meat birds using a movable pen.

George Fraser did significant brush clearing along the Bisbee property. He was able to get 425 bales of hay off Bisbee this past year.

Mark Duffy reported that he had a good cranberry crop this past year. He switched to using a different IPM (Integrated Pest Management) consultant, and this helped quite a lot. His crew cleaned out about 1/3 of the ditches in the bogs. He has put lime down on several other agriculture fields. He wants to focus on improving the hay fields, perhaps reseeding them. Yields in each field are largely weather dependent- some dry out more quickly than others. So far the dry winter is a concern this year. Mark expressed how much he appreciates being able to use public land, which is becoming more scarce.

DEP 125-0907 125 Bellows Hill Rd. Romie Taylor

A new plan was submitted. The Board of Health has not approved the plan yet. Willard had a couple of suggestions regarding changing the silt barrier location. The hearing will be continued to March 8, 2012 at 8 pm.

Lee Tatistcheff, applicant for the Conservation Commission.

She came to know the commission initially when, a few years ago, she applied for a Foss Farm garden plot and was put on the waiting list. She participated in making the new rules for Foss Farm. Her professional background is in engineering, with some experience in computers, materials science and physics. She is originally from Oxford Co., Maine, the daughter of a math professor, and stepdaughter of a union organizer. Ascolillo moved to appoint Lee Tatischeff to the commission, and Brown seconded. All voted in favor. The Commission will recommend that the selectmen appoint Tatistcheff to the Conservation Commission.

DEP 125-0911 Notice of Intent Matthew Herweck Hanover Hill lots 9&10

George Dimakarakos reported that Willard's suggested change in the wetland delineation is agreeable and that it does not change the plans. Natural Heritage has weighed in, and has no objection to the project. Demarcation of the CR line was discussed. This could be accomplished via either a post and rail fence or a stone wall. Willard suggested that the designation of Apple Orchard shown on the plan should be changed to just Orchard on the plans and suggested that the orchard be fenced. Critter gaps in the siltation barrier are already included on the plan, but additional gaps would be beneficial.

Brown moved to close the hearing and Ascolillo seconded. All voted in favor.

Ascolillo moved to issue a standard order of conditions based upon the plan submitted Feb 23, 2012, along with the following special conditions:

- CR demarcation via rail fence or stone wall
- change apple orchard to orchard
- additional critter gaps between wetland flags 6 and 10.

Brown seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

DEP 125-0913 Notice of Intent Hanover Hill, lot 4, 112 Johnson Road

The BVW was redelineated this month. Dimakarakos explained that the only changes were a foundation drain and some grading associated with the septic system. Willard suggested that riprap be placed at the outflow of the drain, due to the steep slope. Brown moved to close the public hearing, and Ascolillo seconded. All voted in favor. Brown moved to issue a standard order of conditions for

the plan dated February 13 2012, with one special condition of adding riprap at the foundation drain outflow. Ascollilo seconded. All voted in favor.

DEP 125-0912 Notice of Intent, Judy Askaroff, 362 River Road

Dimakarakos from Stamski and McNary represented the applicant. There was a recent RDA for an addition to the property. Another new addition is being proposed in the lawn area to hold a lap pool. Excavated soil will be moved off site. Brown moved to close the public hearing and Ascollilo seconded. All voted in favor. Brown moved to issue a standard order of conditions for the plan dated February 13, 2012. Ascollilo seconded. All voted in favor.

Carlisle Housing Authority, Request to undertake studies on two conservation parcels

Alan Lehotsky of the Housing Authority came to the meeting as a courtesy visit. He explained that this spring the housing authority will be requesting CPA funds to study whether it would be possible, both legally and geographically, to place housing on 1) the lot across the street from the cranberry bog, 2) the Conant land, and 3) the Town Forest. The Cranberry Bog lot and the Town Forest are under the authority of the Conservation Commission. Burn made an opening statement that he was glad to be having this discussion, and that there was in fact a great deal of common cause between the Housing Authority and the Commission. He also stated that overcoming the provisions of Article 97 was a substantial hurdle. Lehotsky said that he understood this. Ascollilo, who is also Chair of the CPC, explained that the CPC wanted the Commission to weigh in, because they prefer to put forth to town meeting projects that are likely to be supported by all of the stakeholders.

Willard pointed out that there is an error in the application. The parcel named in the application is actually the Robbins Field which has an Agricultural Preservation Restriction on it, whereas the parcel intended is across the street from the Cranberry Bog house and is part of the Cranberry Bog Conservation Land. Once that was cleared up, Lehotsky asked how use of that parcel for housing would impact the cranberry operation. Mark Duffy was present to speak to this issue. Duffy first pointed out that he owns no land in town, and that he benefits greatly from using town (and state) land. He fully supports all uses on town land, but the challenge arises when one use impedes another use of that land. He went on to explain that the property across from the bog has sand needed for use on the bog. Cranberries grow in sand, and they need sand both for maintenance of the plants, and to stimulate new growth. The best source for sand is on that parcel. Duffy is using both sand that he takes off that parcel, as well as sand that he has trucked in from elsewhere. A ready source of sand is key to growing cranberries.

Regarding the Town Forest, Lehotsky said they are looking for about 6 acres plus space for a well. Bush asked what is different now compared to the previous town studies of the town forest. Lehotsky said that previously they were trying to do the research that disentangles the Town Forest from Article 97. However, they were not successful in this, and the Housing Authority now recognizes that the Town Forest is grandfathered into Article 97. It is a desirable parcel because it is on a major road. Hurdles are that any development on the site would likely require a substantial wetland crossing. This is why they want to do a preliminary engineering study to determine whether it is just crazy to do this. If so, then the town needs to seriously consider where they will get land to do any planned development to keep out 40B. Willard pointed out the Town Forest has rare species habitat for the BlandingsTurtle. Burn pointed out, and Lehotsky acknowledged, how complicated the Article 97 process is. Lehotsky stated that, ultimately, is having control over our own growth worth taking on the Article 97 process? Burn felt that the issue is more a political one, rather than an engineering one, and that it is premature to spend money on engineering studies for something that the town has not yet

decided to contemplate.

Also mentioned by Lehotsky during the discussion, but not part of this particular proposal, was the Red Pine Forest as part of the housing production plan. Willard pointed out that this is part of the Greenough property. Lehotsky had not realized it was part of Greenough. Since Greenough was purchased partly using federal funds, it is therefore off the table for housing.

Bush asked whether CPC wanted us to vote. Ascollilo said no- just general guidance and discussion is all they were looking for.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jenifer Bush,
Carlisle Conservation Commission